

Evening Ledger

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THE AVERAGE NET PAID DAILY CIRCULATION OF THE EVENING LEDGER FOR FEBRUARY WAS 98,373
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Every amateur wireless station is now under suspicion.
Superstitious folk will be surprised if hostilities begin this month.

The War Study Society, of Copenhagen, estimates the total loss of belligerents in dead, wounded and sick at 19,213,800, and counts about 5,000,000 missing.

Governor Brumbaugh's approval of the plan for making the schoolhouse centers of neighborhood life will not be enough to make it successful.

Philadelphia shoe manufacturers are not among those who believe that this country has nothing to fear from European competition when the war ends.

Law is not what is lacking to keep the streets free from litter. If the city ordinances are not sufficient there is a statute approved by Governor Pennypacker nearly twelve years ago applying to every city, borough and township in the State.

London's joy over the report that Baghdad had been taken is described as the greatest public demonstration since the German-American break.

It is not often that the high cost of bad government is computed directly in dollars and cents by the bad governors themselves.

PLAIN FACTS ABOUT TRANSIT

IT IS not often that the high cost of bad government is computed directly in dollars and cents by the bad governors themselves, and even more seldom is a community treated to the spectacle of such officials offering the enormous expense of their own inefficiency as a reason why authorized public improvements should be materially contracted in scope, if not altogether abandoned.

The new transit system, boasts the Mayor through his official servant, will cost twenty-seven millions more than it ought to have cost and more than it would have cost had the dilatory tactics of politicians and the obstructive attitude of the administration later on not served to hold up the awarding of contracts until an unprecedentedly high level of prices had been reached.

It is admitted by Director Twining and by other reputable engineers that had contracts been let when Mr. Taylor was urging prompt action not only would the sums voted have been amply adequate for every purpose, but in all probability savings under the estimates could have been made, as they were made in the case of such contracts as were then let.

Who in this city does not remember the hard times and the low prices that prevailed two winters ago? So acute was the suffering, so desperate was the condition of many families, that the charity of the city was taxed to the uttermost to succor the needy, and this newspaper opened its want columns and its employment agencies free of charge to the unemployed in an effort to relieve the situation.

With the eloquence of conviction, Director Taylor then pointed out that the city could not only change hunger into satisfaction by giving employment to thousands of deserving men, but it could likewise achieve its transit dream at an amazingly low cost. The response of Councils, under the sort of leadership that now dominates the administration, was an obdurate refusal to do anything.

The present Director of City Transit, however, was scarcely seated in office before he began to talk of better subways. The Mayor held his hands up in horror at the thought of going under City Hall. He spent a half hour or so in the excavations looking at the foundations and then announced "it can't be done."

It is important that the public should understand fully, accepting present estimates as correct, that the delay against which Director Taylor and the newspaper in general so urgently fought represents a cost of millions. We are compelled, nevertheless, to extricate these estimators from the morasses of their own pessimism.

Mr. Twining, for instance, emphasizes the cost of the Chestnut street subway. That is the city's ace in the hole, and not to be built at once unless the new system is operated independently. But, says Director Twining, quoting Mr. Taylor, it must be built anyhow by 1924. Quite so, but only if the amount of traffic is so large that it cannot be handled by the present Market street subway, in which case receipts from fares would be so great that financing of the relief subway would offer only a trivial problem.

But the golden fact is that the increases in the cost of subway building have not paralleled in any way the unprecedented flood of wealth that has descended on this community. War has sucked the resources of Europe from its heroic people and poured them into America. Prosperity almost emptied her cornucopia when passing over Pennsylvania. If steel costs more, isn't it Pennsylvania that makes most of the steel and draws the profit therefrom?

Such great plants as the Midvale Steel Works, the Baldwin Locomotive Works and the Brill Car Works will have to meet the demands imposed by an enormous deferred maintenance of railroad locomotives and equipment, due at first to unsatisfactory financial conditions and later to abnormally high prices of steel and steel products.

The expenditure of millions in the removal of grade crossings in South Philadelphia and the provision of vast terminal facilities by the railroads, added to the millions which the city itself is to spend for new docks and wharves, will bring, as they have already begun to bring, a vast added freight movement by water and rail to and through Philadelphia, with added population and wealth as an inevitable result.

These things mean an enormous increase in the purchasing power of the community, an increase which has already been felt; and in the use of a rapid transit system, as the receipts and profits of the present operating company prove.

We are confronted not by an ordinary, but by an extraordinary situation. The increase in population has been normally from 25,000 to 30,000 a year. We hesitate to estimate what it has been during the last twenty-four months. We do know we must prepare to accommodate several hundred thousand additional people, which means that the demand for adequate public facilities, already great, is now positively insistent.

In the face of these conditions, with prosperity positively hammering at our gates and refusing to go away, with growth overtaking us whether we will or no, it is not ridiculous if any considerable body of public opinion should be found supporting the attitude of short-sighted men, who shudder at the thought of spending any money and are set in their conviction that Philadelphia is a backward town and ought to be kept a backward town, and that there is no use trying to realize high ambitions.

Last week the Pennsylvania Railroad announced the completion of the bridge over Hell Gate. It cost \$27,000,000, and its purpose is to provide proper railroad service to and from New England. We find no record of any stockholders having sought to prevent the company from making its share of the investment. Yet we find little men strutting about Philadelphia promulgating in loud voices the theory that if a proper transit service for this city should happen to cost \$27,000,000 more than it would have cost but for the delay, the whole project ought to be held up or some mysterious contraction of the plans be brought about.

We may say to these gentlemen that Philadelphia is going to get out of its swaddling clothes whether it costs sixty millions or ninety millions. And we may say to them, too, that the system is just as feasible at ninety millions today as it was at sixty millions in 1914. That fact have we grown.

But the system is not going to cost ninety millions. Let citizens get that fact firmly fixed in their minds. Prices are at their crest. The urgency of the proposed system renders it economical even now to award contracts for the central parts of the system, which will take longer to build. Mr. Twining, we are confident, will renounce his intention of awarding other contracts before the proper time. We advise no delay so far as the completion of the whole system is concerned; but, as Mr. Taylor has repeatedly pointed out, the outlying lines, which are dependent on the delivery loop, need not be begun until long after the more difficult sections of the system are under contract. There will be no delay in putting the entire system in operation if this suggestion is followed. There is not going to be a "killing" for contractors.

ONE MESSAGE HE CAN APPRECIATE



THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Denunciation of the Conduct of Senator Stone—Varying Views of the Senate Filibuster

This Department is free to all readers who wish to express their opinions on subjects of current interest. It is an open forum, and the signatures of its correspondents, letters must be accompanied by the name of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

SENATOR STONE AND OTHERS
To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:
Sir—"Gumbo" Bill Stone and his "copperhead" colleagues have shown the country to what depths "statesmen" can descend and how grossly they can betray their trust in a national crisis.

The Senate of the United States of America is supposed to be one of the most august and honorable legislative bodies in the world; twelve of its members have shown themselves as absolutely unfitted for the trust reposed in them, and instead of statesmen appear as the commonest of common politicians.

If there ever was a time when "the power" of the press was wielded by the people, it is now, and the question is, Are the newspapers going to let them get away with it? I would suggest that their names be printed on the front page of every paper, under a suitable caption, for the next thirty days. Don't let the matter "die" until something has been done to correct the mischief these twelve "obstructionists" have done and the reputation of such damnable filibustering tactics made impossible.

Philadelphia, March 8.
MORE ABOUT MR. STONE
To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:
Sir—"Gum Shoe Bill" Stone has caused the waking up of all kinds of nations. Cannot Americans wake up, too? Americans have expected he would do his duty and give intellectual and moral bread for the common good of American citizens even if he was so narrow-minded as to care nothing for the common enlightenment as an inalienable human right of all humanity, which alone can produce mutual justice, peace and happiness.

Some of the best men in the world are pacifists on principle. Should we have a war with a foreign power, only those pacifists who would not stand by the Government would be Copperheads. The younger people of this generation do not realize what a real Copperhead was when patriots were stabbing slavery to death and preserving the American Union and keeping the flag of this country aloft.

THE NEW HYPHENATES
More Americans, and among them two Chicago women, have been ruthlessly sacrificed because they exercised the right of neutrality to sail the high seas. Meanwhile Congress talks, and our menace now is a new kind of hyphenated American, the Republican-American, the Democratic-American, the Progressive-American, the Prohibition-American and the Socialist-American—Chicago Herald.

HOME RULE IN A NUTSHELL
To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:
Sir—Your editorial today puts the Irish situation into a nutshell. All Ireland wants, and all she has asked for years, is to be accorded the same rights that Canada enjoys. Let England give her these and the problem will have been solved. Simple, is it not?
MOLLIE MAQUIRE,
Germantown, March 9.

PRESIDENTIAL DICTATION
To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:
Sir—"B." in today's EVENING LEDGER is absolutely correct. It all depends on whose ox is gored. If last week's filibuster had been directed against the Adamson law, the President would have gone into the White House and his call-boy editors would have had hysterics.

But the affair was not a filibuster strictly. It was the fearless expression of a dozen men against converting the President of the United States into a Western World Car. If the President had asked merely for authority to arm merchant ships, there would have been virtually little or no opposition. But when he asked for the power to use "other instrumentalities" without a single hint of what those instrumentalities would be, he simply asked on account of a dozen of them that the rights and prerogatives of the people be voluntarily surrendered to him.

What Do You Know?

Queries of general interest will be answered in this column. Ten questions, the answers to which every well-informed person should know, are asked daily.

- QUIZ
1. What and where is Chaulipec?
2. How do the Germans describe "ruthless" submarine warfare?
3. How many calories a day does an adult require?
4. Locate Palestine and compare its area with that of Texas.
5. Who are the "First Hundred Thousand"?
6. Who was the "Washington of South America"?
7. Ambassador Gerard's homeward-bound ship is a P. and O. steamship. Explain the abbreviation.
8. Who is the American woman self champion?
9. What are the Hottentots and where do they live?
10. What South American country is afflicted with revolution now?

Answers to Saturday's Quiz
1. A food calorie (also calory) is a thermal unit used in determining the caloric value of foods. It is the amount of heat necessary to raise one kilogram of water one degree centigrade.
2. Grand Duke Nicholas, formerly commander-in-chief of the Russian forces in Persia.
3. Baghdad is the "Arabian Nights City."
4. President Wilson applied the epithet, "willful men" to the group of Senators who defeated the armed ship bill.
5. Discharge balloons are used almost entirely for observation purposes on the western front.
6. "Jingoes" merchantmen are inexpensive wooden, motor-driven ships proposed as substitutes for the custom originator.
7. Dr. Carl T. Grayson is the President's physician, who has been renominated by the latter for a second year to the navy, with the rank of rear admiral.
8. Count Zeppelin planned to make an afternoon visit to America in one of his airships.
9. Bismarck's organization, as opposed to parties and organizations, is cooperation. The parties working in co-operation.
10. Neptune was the Roman name. Poseidon the Greek name, for the god of the sea.

Japanese "Maru"
J. T. T.—The word "Maru," attached to the name of every Japanese merchant ship and commonly accepted as meaning "ship," has no special meaning, according to Captain Takeshima, of the Japanese steamship Hudson Maru, recently captured and released by a German raider in the South Atlantic. Captain Takeshima said that the word is the survival of a Japanese custom centuries old. He explained the origin as follows: "There are two opinions as to how the custom originated. One of the stories, which I believe is the correct one, is that in ancient times the Japanese attached 'maru' to the name of anything precious or highly prized, as a sword or a baby. It was first applied to a ship's name about 2000 years ago, when the Empress Jingo sent an expedition to Korea. She added the word to the name of the ship that transported the troops to Korea. Ever since then 'maru' has been part of the name of every steamship or sailing vessel. It is never used with the name of a warship."

All Points of the Compass
Rubaiyat of a Commuter
XCVIII
At night the Pierce Commuter Car
Bumps gently, asking where the Players are
To play at something which he thinks is
Bridge.
I'm glad I don't Commute to where it's Far!

Casuals of the Day's Work
XXXY
WE ARE grieved, in spots, by being called to the attention of vicariously by an ex, catadacta, a critic of our super peers. Old Mr. Marmion wasn't more than that when he called Lord Angus by a shorter and uglier name. Desiring, at the moment, to become critical, we wish to call the attention of our older friend who runs the Quis column, somewhere east of us, to the fact that it was stated, set down, published, etc., as follows to wit: "From three-fourths to three-fifths of the human body is composed of water."

Divorce
J. B.—A marriage may be annulled in New Jersey if either party to the contract was an idiot at the time of the marriage. Other causes at the time of marriage that constitute grounds for divorce are want of legal age, consanguinity, previous marriage and physical incapacity. Desertion for two years and cruelty also are grounds for divorce. Pennsylvania, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Maine and Utah grant divorces for insanity, and in several other States marriages may be annulled for insanity at the time of marriage. A lawyer should be consulted first of all.

Seating Arrangement
L. M. J.—Your query was answered on the Woman's Page Saturday.

SAM LOYD'S PUZZLE
"STARTED in business with a shred of oil and vinegar," said a shrewd speculator. "The stock was contained in six barrels, with contents respectively: Eight gallons, thirteen gallons, fifteen gallons, seventeen gallons, nineteen gallons and thirty-one gallons. My first customer bought \$14 worth of each liquid, paying twice as much for oil as for vinegar, and that emptied all but one of the barrels, which one remained untapped. Now see if you can tell what that remaining barrel of oil would have brought at the selling price."

Answer to Saturday's Puzzle
THREE three-quarters of a pound substituted for the missing one-quarter of a pound of a whole which must weigh three

Tom Daly's Column

ENNUI
My heart is like a wet Sunday in a boarding house.
My soul peers out through wet, distorted windows at the cold, cold rain—
An endless, freezing, pitiless rain that is half snow.
The streets that run throughout my mind;
The little tucked streets;
The long, wide avenues of woe thought;
The dark, crooked alleys where shuffling scarlet secrets live;
The winding lanes, white-dusted in summer—
All—all are heavy with the cold and wet and slush.
No sunshine; not a leaf on any tree,
Nor yet a bud on any wayside bush,
No idling bird to sing his song of vagabondage;
No thoughts of stars or dreams of nightingales or women fair and men that love them all.
No—my heart is like a cold, wet Sunday in a boarding house.

VARLEY
A bully bit of blank verse by Walter Prichard Eaton climbed to the top of F. P. A.'s column in the New York Tribune on Saturday, although it was full of "slippery elum." We might say over his first gift of an extra syllable to "elm," when, singing pentameter, he says:
The summit elm where I stood sent me
An endless shadow from the light, so that
I heard the whistle of a blow, the hiss
Upon the mistle of the wind-swept snow—
If he didn't repeat the crime further on—
On the other hand—or both hands, if you please—let us applaud these lines:
The world, I thought, had never been so still
I heard the whistle of a blow, the hiss
Upon the mistle of the wind-swept snow.
As with the night the day's star attended us.

SONG OF THE FLEET
A snowball is a pretty thing
To celebrate in winter,
And as I lay again to sing,
A snowball is a pretty thing—
But ere I'd feel its icy sting—
I'd prove myself a sprinter—
A snowball is a pretty thing
To celebrate in winter.

CASA WAPPY
Mrs. George Barnett entertained at luncheon, whose engagement to Lieutenant Prichard Eaton she announced yesterday in honor of Miss Ethel La James Blair Glennon has recently been announced.
—Eve Contem.
Sounds like a mixed marriage, but a bridegroom "nice enough to eat."

Representative William Murray of Ohio, who once appears in the official Congressional Directory as "Alfalfa Bull," is one of the lame ducks now in the House of Representatives. He was sitting on his shoulders in one of the big tuffed leather seats in the cloakroom, recently when Representative Michael Phelan, of Massachusetts, came up to him.
"Bill," he began, "I want to ask you a personal question."
"Alfalfa," he said, "I want to tell you a story. There is one county in my district that has always voted Democratic for my district. The boys all like me down there; but, do you know, Mike, that since I have been defeated for re-election not one of those fellows has asked me what I intend to do after March 4?"
Mike Phelan didn't ask his personal question.

Aftermaths
She dwelt among untrodden ways
And roamed the woods with glee,
Till, dazzled by her radiant gaze,
I planned a jubilee.
She did not know and few could know
What that place charged for tea;
She ate her fill and more, but oh,
The difference to me!

Ballade of a Backslder
(Ted Robinson, in the Cleveland Plain Dealer)
Darling, I am growing old!
Yet, before I pass away,
Shall these dimming eyes behold
Woman hold her equal sway?
I have labored for it—yes,
I have racked this bulging dome
To confute the men who say
"Women's place is in the Home."

Plucking an Education in Dakota
So far the threat of war has had no effect upon the German class. Their energy, however, will be used fully up in struggle with the subjunctive and illomestic expressions of the language.
Class in Algebra are now finishing fractions. Most of the class are doing good work.
The physiology class is having a delightful struggle with skeleton structure, learning the names of all the bones in the body with their location, etc.
David Outavut has left school.
Marian Tumberlin has entered the first grade—Tower City (N. D.) Topics.

Dear Tom—it seems to me this bunch of epigrams is strong
LeOlllette
O'Grady
Daly
Keston
Vardaman
Norris
Globe
Petrovsky
Wells
Kirby
Cummings
Lynn
Laughlin
and I wonder if there is anything in that superstition about "13"?

Valentines like this might be addressed to the Vares from various parts of town
SPRING GARDEN STREET'S HUMOR
Our Spring Garden has the humors of the world and the humors of the world are a part of Spring Garden. Not a cleaner as the job. Thus our pockets will they rob. From the bottom of the lot.
Filler scraps by the red.
So all winter half it been,
secretly stolen from the lot.
In the night the day's star attended us.